



# WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

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## **Digital Assets Bill Signed into Law**

*Modernizes our laws for the digital age*

Madison, WI— Today, Governor Scott Walker signed AB 695, authored by Rep. Rob Brooks (R-Saukville and Rep. Melissa Sargent (D-Madison) into law. This legislation will provide a set of guidelines to direct what happens to an individual's digital assets (i.e. Facebook accounts, Shutterfly pictures, email accounts, etc.) after they pass away or become incapacitated.

"Wisconsin will, as a result of Assembly Bill 695's passage, become the first state to adopt the newly revised uniform fiduciary access to digital assets guidelines, placing Wisconsin at the cutting edge of new technology," said Representative Rob Brooks. "This is a win-win for Wisconsinites as it allows them to designate a guardian to manage and oversee their digital assets, while simultaneously protecting individual liberty and intellectual property rights."

"This strong, bi-partisan bill modernizes fiduciary law for the Internet age," Representative Melissa Sargent stated. "In an increasingly paperless world, this bill creates certainty for after-death decisions regarding important digital accounts. People will now be able to access their loved ones varied accounts. Everything from life insurance to family pictures are now in online, digital form. AB 695 will protect those accounts and ensure that they are dealt with in a legal manner much like tangible property."

AB 695 passed the Assembly and Senate unanimously and is supported by The State Bar of Wisconsin, Facebook, Microsoft, Wisconsin Bankers Association, and the Motion Picture Association of America.

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